

Carson National Forest

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News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Taos, New Mexico, September 22, 2006 - The El Rito Ranger District of the Carson National Forest will begin work on the Petaca Las Tablas Phase 2 prescribed burn beginning the first week of October and will continue through the remainder of the month contingent on weather, air quality, precipitation, available resources, and fuel moisture levels.

The Petaca Las Tablas prescribed burn will be implemented using broadcast burning which includes the use of hand ignition where fire is applied to an area within well defined boundaries.

This 600 acre project is mainly Ponderosa Pine and Gambel Oak vegetation types with some pockets of mixed conifer. The objectives of this burn are to reduce accumulations of heavy ground fuels from natural and logging activities, reduce the threat of catastrophic fire to local communities, and increase forage productivity for domestic livestock and wildlife. This area is critical habitat to a variety of wildlife including wild horses.

This project is located two miles east of Canon Plaza and five miles north of Vallecitos. Smoke will be visible from these communities as well as from Tres Piedra, El Rito and Taos.

For more information please contact the El Rito Ranger District at 505-581-4554.

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